TRANSPORTER

Vital Signs

NJDOT daughters

Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. have invited New Jersey "daughters" to several events in observance of "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

Governor Whitman will address participants on April 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Masonic Temple on Barracks Street in Trenton. The NJDOT events will take place on the same day. Look for the announcement.

There's still time

Here's a reminder to the hundreds of NJDOT employees who attended the health fairs this month. You have until April 30 to change health and dental plans. To change providers, or change the type of coverage, just pick up a form from the Human Resources Health Benefits Unit and submit it before the end of the month. The changes are effective July 5.

Blood drives

Jerie Parker of NJDOT's Division of Human Resources has announced additional blood drives on May 5 at **NJDOT Headquarters**; on July 1 at the **Division of Motor Vehicles**

(Continued on page 4)

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

April 1997

Vol. 31, No. 3

Inside

DOTRA Reunion 2
People 3

Haley proposes $1.8 billion program

NJDOT Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. has proposed a $1.8 billion capital program for fiscal year 1998. Officially transmitted April 1 to the Legislature for approval and inclusion in Governor Whitman's state budget for the new fiscal year, the program is one of the largest transportation capital programs in state history.

This program ensures that New Jersey's economy remains strong and prosperous," said Governor Christine Todd Whitman. "The state's transportation system not only energizes our economy, it provides the foundation for continued growth."

The funds are targeted for projects that will benefit New Jerseyans economically and keep people moving efficiently and safely through the state. As part of the ongoing budget process, NJ Transit's Board of Directors approved their $608 million portion of the transportation plan in February.

"The program reflects our priority on the passengers who use the system every day. Passenger safety, security and comfort will be the benchmarks of our public transit initiatives," said Haley.

"This program also provides funding to advance the Atlantic City-Brigantine project, which will bring a great many benefits to one of New Jersey's largest urban areas," he said. "Among those benefits are development of the marina area, creation of 86,000 construction jobs and 16,500 new jobs, and $275 million in annual state and local tax revenues."

"In addition, this capital program provides funding to support increased goods movement and rail freight activity in light of the proposed Conrail merger," Haley said.

Ongoing roadway preservation projects and bridge needs will benefit from the program. NJDOT will direct its attention to the more than 15 high cost bridges that will need replacement or major rehabilitation within seven years at a total cost of more than $1.4 billion.

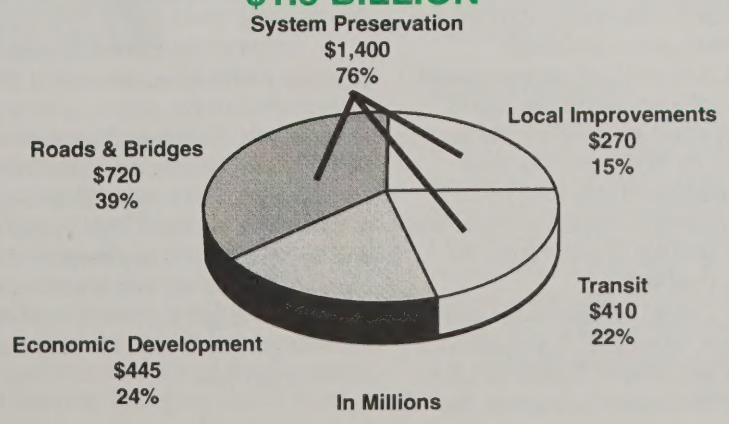
There's a benefit on the local level too. "This program provides $270 million to counties and municipalities. This helps keep property taxes down while giving communities the means to undertake critical repairs and improvements to their road system—roads that each of us rely on every day," said Haley.

To advance these projects that are ready to go, Commissioner Haley has requested an increased $200 million appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund. Lower financing costs that don't affect the overall financial outlook of the current Trust Fund Authorization Act make this appropriation possible.

"This proposed program was developed with considerable outreach to local, county and state officials, and to the state's three Metropolitan Planning Organizations," Haley said. "It is a dynamic and deliberative process that ensures New Jersey's communities and counties have input into the development of not only this program, but the draft multiyear Transportation Improvement Plan."

Balances System Preservation with Economic Development

$1.8 BILLION



DOTRA holds third annual Florida reunion

Retired NJDOT Materials employee Frank Wegel, his wife Kathy and Shirley Birkhead hosted the third annual DOTRA (DOT Retirees Association) Florida reunion on February 18 at the Rockledge Country Club. Former NJDOTers and their spouses are (front row) Al Alaimo, Irene Gramlich, Dave Quaid, Gloria Brady, Dot Andres, Doris Friedman, Shirley Birkhead, Betty and Frank Roy, Irene and Joe Saproni; (middle row) Frank Wegel, George Gramlich, Adolph and Marie Stepowany, Barbara Wauters, Ruth Zasoski, Charlie Brady, Jim and Trude Hart, Warren Sunderland, Dave Benoist, Maury Guadagno, Maria and Sandy Falvo, Stan Friedman, Maureen McCrory, Lube and Nick Nicu; (back row) Jack Wauters, Kathy Wegel, Ted Kiselwicz, Ernest Zasoski, Lisa, Peg and George Wieger, Ted Hamler, Pat McCrory. Chet Andres snapped this picture during the gathering.

Ilonzo works on satellite techology

NJDOT Project Engineer Okey Ilonzo, P.E. of the Bureau of Project Scope Development, and McCormick Taylor Associates (MTA) Project Manager Nabil M. Hourani, P.E. have worked since October on new applications for satellite images. They have been evaluating the capability, cost-effectiveness and comparative results of using satellite imagery rather than conventional aerial mapping to study a large watershed area.

"We know that this technology represents a significant savings over the traditional use of aerial mapping. And it is more accurate than using outdated U.S.G.S. maps to delineate and classify land use of a large watershed," said Hourani.

The user can manipulate the cost-effective satellite-generated images to create planimetric base maps, two-dimensional contour images and three-dimensional animated images. "The user can apply this technology to regional planning, transportation planning, environmental management, global mapping and more," said Hourani.

MTA featured satellite imaging for watershed modeling in its publication *MTA Crossroads,* published at its Philadelphia headquarters. NJDOT retains McCormick Taylor Associates as consultants for watershed modeling, drainage and roadwork.

Route 55 yields budget savings

NJDOT's Bureau of Quality Management Services Research Unit, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Landis Sewerage Authority (LSA) of Vineland completed the first part of a project to use liquid bio-solids as a soil additive for the sandy, infertile soils on Route 55. The poor soils in the median of this road make it difficult to sustain a vegetative cover and erosion was starting to undermine the edges of the roadway.

George Caruso of Landscape and Urban Design, Vincent F. Nichnadowicz of Research and Dennis Palmer of LSA spearheaded the project to explore the possibilities of using liquid bio-solids. LSA and DEP were eager to find uses for this material.

In October, Land Resource Recycling Management applied 283,600 gallons of LSA bio-solids to the highway median area. As a result the state saved $92,000 in anticipated project costs for the soil additive included in an ongoing maintenance contract. This month LSA will apply a second application of liquid bio-solids when the site is seeded with weeping love grass, which is drought tolerant grass and requires only a single mowing per year.

TRANSPORTER

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

The *Transporter* is published for the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It is written and designed by the Communications Office, Main Office Building, Trenton, NJ 08625, 609-530-2127. E-Mail TP1HETM, Fax 609-530-5469. Deadline is the first of each month. The *Transporter* is printed by the Department's Print Shop.

Camille Sinclair, Managing Editor;
Edyth Hetman, News, Features; 530-5427
Frank Bridgewater, Graphic Artist;
Mark Dunlap, Photography
Jim Berzok, John Dourgarian and **John Graf,** Contributors; **Kathleen Callahan** and **Judi Tessein**, Support Staff.

Our website's Internet address is http://www.state.nj.us/transportation. For your convenience, we'll publish it in every issue.

People Briefs

Appointed

Carol-Ann Hollows has accepted the position of Special Assistant to the Commissioner. Ms. Hollows will execute NJDOT policy functions, coordinate activities within the Department's organizational units and outside agencies, decide organization effectiveness and establish performance criteria to promote the mission of the Department.

Praised

Supervisor **Bob Vargo** and his **Crew 337** of Central Region Maintenance received praise from two residents of Glen Gardner. Bill and Sandy Christian needed a flood-prone area in front of their Route 31 home fixed. Crew 337 responded quickly and constructed a gravel curbing that alleviated the condition. Always glad to hear good news from the outside about his crew, Executive Director Jim Pittman of Central Regional Operations commented "It's always a pleasure when someone lets us know that they appreciate our work."

Planned Nuptials

Secretarial Assistant 2 **Kelly Anne Edwards** and Auditor 2 **Richard Temmer** announced they'll wed August 16. The future bride and groom work in Capital Program Development and Accounting and Auditing, respectively.

Honored

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) conferred 25-year Meritorious Service Awards on Motor Vehicles' Accounting and Auditing Internal Audit Manager **Thomas Iannotti,** Geotechnical Engineering Manager **John Mansfield**, Revenue Administration Manager **Joseph Severino** and Maintenance Engineering and Operations Supervising Engineer **Lawrence Sroka**.

Milestone

Structural Evaluation and Bridge Management Sr. Assistant Engineer (provisional) **Bharat V. Shah** recently achieved the rank of Professional Engineer after he passed the professional engineer's exam.

Thanks

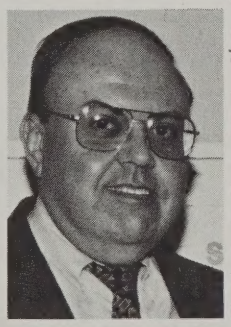
NJDOT Welder **Bill Shawlot** and his family say "thanks" to everyone who donated personal sick time to him. "Although we do not know exactly who donated time, what we do know is that these individuals are 'angels in disguise' . . . These employees have given us a renewed faith in the human spirit," they wrote. Shawlot works at the South Region's Vineland Garage.

RETIREES

NJDOT Principal Title Examiner **Robert Preston** of Design Services, Right of Way Titles, retired after 30 yrs., 3 months service. Other retirees are DMV's **Marcella Montgomery**, Customer Service Information Specialist 1, 25 yrs., 4 mos.; **Norman Carey**, Truck Driver Single Axle, Road Maintenance South Region, 25 yrs.; **Eileen Russell**, DMV Support Services Rep 2, Data Entry, 15 yrs., 9 mos.; **Patricia Summers**, Administrative Analyst, DMV Driver Control, 12 yrs., 9 mos.; and **John J. Impellizeri**, Truck Driver Single Axle, Road Maintenance Central Region, 10 yrs., 5 mos.

OBITUARIES

Gerald E. Guarnieri, 34-year NJDOT employee, died April 2 in Trenton. Page editor of the *Transporter*, Guarnieri began state service at Motor Vehicles and then joined Transportation in the Right of Way Division. As a governmental relations specialist he produced and collaborated on many Department publications, electronic presentations and exhibits, one of the last being the Department's 30th anniversary celebration this past summer. He created the Moments in History column which ran periodically in the *Transporter* and often photographed transportation subjects and events for Department use.



Gerry Guarnieri

An arts devotee, he was president and executive director of Shakespeare '70 Theatrical Company for 27 years, a board member of the Trenton Museum Society, a former board member of the Trenton Arts Commission and the initial developer of Eyes on Trenton arts festival in 1980. Survivors include his aunt Isabelle Kaminski, friend Bruce S. Bushman, cousin Rosallie C. Bender and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Retired NJDOT's South (Cherry Hill) Region Crew Supervisor of Landscape **Arthur H. Bittner** died November 13 in Mt. Holly. A decorated World War II Army veteran, Bittner's survivors include wife Marjorie, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Rebecca Parker-Mobley, formerly of NJDOT's Food Service Department, died February 26 in Trenton. An Order of the Eastern Star member, Parker-Mobley's survivors include husband John, stepmother Lillie Mae Melvin, brothers David and Clarence Melvin, sisters Dixie and Pearl Owens, several uncles, aunts, nieces nephews and friends.

Retired NJDOT negotiator **Joseph Strano** died March 17 in Trenton. Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, son Joseph Jr., several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Pauline Wieland of Florence died March 30. Retired from NJDOT in 1965 as a Principal Clerk Stenographer, Wieland was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Maqueda Chapter 276. Survivors include sister-in-law Edna Wieland, brother-in-law George Dawson, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

NJDOT retiree **Lucy Feole** died April 2 in Hamilton. Survivors include husband Albert M., daughter Chris Sevilla, sons John and David, sisters Jen Scott and Mary Turano, brother Vincent Turano, several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Blue Ribbons

Congratulations go to Supervisor of Right of Way 1 **Walter Sharpe** and Senior Right of Way Appraiser **Michael Serediuk** for their outstanding accomplishments. Division of Design Services Acting Director Richard W. Dunne commended both employees for exceptional dedication to their work.

Sharpe developed a user friendly

(Continued on page 4)

People

(From page three)

network database in Microsoft Access that cuts paperwork and frees up staff to concentrate on work assignments needed to deliver NJDOT's capital program. The system tracks all major milestones on all parcels and projects and cuts the repetitious work of data entry into record books.

Serediuk completed a major property acquisition in one month. The I-195 parcel is a critical piece of real estate that will provide improved access to Great Adventure. Serediuk negotiated the favorable settlement for the state and property owners, got agreements, the mortgage release and even delivered the final payment to speed this project.

Sharpe works in the Freehold Office; Serediuk in Central Region (Freehold).

Vital Signs

(From page one)

Headquarters; on August 27 in **Mt. Laurel** and on September 19 at **NJDOT Headquarters**. Remember, you can save a life with your donation. If you have questions about giving blood, call Jerie Parker at (609) 530-6396.

New Jersey
Department of Transportation
CN 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

Printed on recycled paper

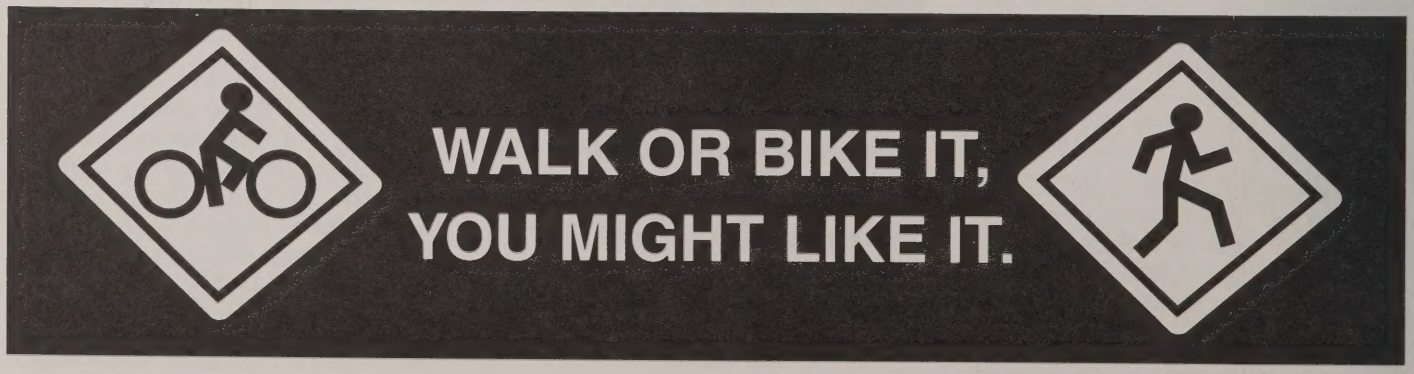
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21

NJDOT employees make history

Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. offered some sage advice as he introduced keynote speaker Assistant Commissioner Kathleen Immordino of the Department of Personnel at the Women's History Month kickoff. The Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action sponsored a brown-bag luncheon at NJDOT on March 14.

"I believe that if we're learning anything as men, as husbands, as businessmen, as managers, as friends, sons, fathers and, in my case, as Transportation Commissioner serving New Jersey's first female Governor, it's to talk a little less and listen a lot more to the women around us," Haley said.

Immordino's speech was titled "Taking Responsibility for your Career." A former NJDOT employee, Immordino was well prepared to speak at the first of a two-part program. She served as Director of Affirmative Action and Administrative Hearings and Executive Assistant to the Chief Engineer for Construction and Maintenance. Immordino was also a DOT TOT Child Care Center project team member.

Representatives from Helene Fuld Medical Center, Mercer County Community College and Thomas A. Edison State College were available for the second half of the program on March 26. At the combination health and education fair, NJDOT employees could get a blood pressure screening, a body fat analysis, or learn about college programs uniquely suited to adults' educational needs.

Administrative Assistant 1 Kelly McClure of the Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action coordinated both events to commemorate the observance. Begun in Sonoma County, CA in 1978, the event is annually designated Women's History Month by the United States Congress, governors and state legislators.